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PATENT APPLICATION
Docket No. 10517/74

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Applicant(s); Masayoshi Iwase et al.

Application No.: 09/665,899

Filed: September 20, 2000

For: FULE CELL AND SEPARATOR FOR THE SAME

Group Art Unit: 1745

Examiner: Julian A. Mercado

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement and the enclosed PTO Form No. 1449, shall not be construed as an admission that the information cited is prior art, or is considered to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b). The paragraphs marked below are applicable. It is believed that no fees other than those indicated below are due, but authorization is hereby given to charge any additional fees due, or to credit any overpayment, to deposit account 11-0600.

1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d), (b) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, (c) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application, OR (d) before the mailing of a first office action after filing of a request for continued examination. No certification or fee is required.

2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a final action, Notice of Allowance, or any action that otherwise closes prosecution.

a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).

b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).

c. Please debit Deposit Account No. 11-0600 in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p) to ensure consideration of the disclosed information. Two duplicate copies of this paper are attached. 37 CFR §1.97(c)(2).

3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of a final action, Notice of Allowance or an action that otherwise closes prosecution, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant(s) hereby request(s) that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Please debit Deposit Account No. 11-0600 in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the petition fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p) to ensure consideration of the disclosed information. Two duplicate copies of this paper are attached.

a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in any counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).

b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).

4. Relevance of the non-English language reference(s) is discussed in the present specification.

5. References C, D, E, F, and G were cited in a counterpart foreign application. English language versions of the foreign search reports are attached for the Examiner's information.

6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language reference(s) appears in the Appendix attached hereto.

7. The Examiner's attention is directed to co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. _____, filed, which is directed to related technical subject matter. The identification of this U.S. Patent Application is not to be construed as a waiver of secrecy as to that application now or upon issuance of the present application as a patent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited application and the art cited therein during examination of the present application.

8. This application is one of a series of related applications, identified in the attached Appendix, which are directed to related technical subject matter. The identification of those U.S. Patent Applications is not to be construed as a waiver of secrecy as to those applications now or upon issuance of the present application as a patent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited applications and the art cited therein during the examination.

9. References A, B, H, I, J, K, L, M, and N were cited by or submitted to the Office in parent application No. 09/216,778, filed December 18, 1998, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120. Thus, copies of these references are not attached. 37 CFR §1.98(d).

10. English-language Abstracts of the non-English language references are attached hereto.

11. Since this application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of U.S. references are not included.

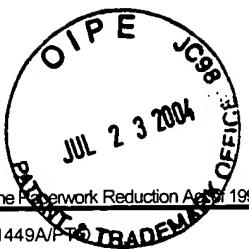
Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

Date: July 23, 2004

David J. Zibelli
David J. Zibelli
Registration No. 36,394

Kenyon & Kenyon & Kenyon
1500 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 220-4200
Facsimile: (202) 220-4201
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Substitute for

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

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Complete if Known	
Application Number	09/665,899
Filing Date	September 20, 2000
First Named Inventor	Masayoshi Iwase et al.
Art Unit	1745
Examiner Name	Julian A. Mercado
Attorney Docket Number	10517/74

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	English abstract
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
E		JP 08138692	5/31/96	Yasuhiro et al.		Yes
F		JP 08031434	2/2/96	Masayoshi et al.		Yes
G		EP 0967675	12/29/99	Mizuno		
H		JP 58166658	10/1/83			
I		JP 7263003	10/13/95			
J		JP 8138692	5/31/96			
K		JP 2155171	6/14/90			
L		JP 163271	3/9/89			
M		JP 61256568	11/14/86			
N		JP 56134473	10/21/81			

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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⁴EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ⁵Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ⁶See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ⁷Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁸For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁹Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ¹⁰Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO:** Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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